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| 09/519,964 | 03/07/2000 | Jacques Belissent | SUNIP601 | 9655 |

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EXAMINER

MAUNG, ZARNI

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2154

DATE MAILED: 07/02/2002

14

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES**

Paper No. 16

Serial Number: 09/519,964
Filing Date: March 7, 2000
Appellant(s): Jacques Belissent et al.

MAILED

JUL 01 2002

Michael J. Ferrazano
(Reg. No. 44,105)
For Appellant

Technology Center 2100

EXAMINER'S ANSWER

1. This is in response to appellants' brief on appeal filed on April 11, 2002.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

2. The appellants' statement of the real party in interest contained in the brief is correct.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

3. The appellants' statement of the related appeals and interferences contained in the brief is correct.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

4. The appellants' statement of the status of the claims contained in the brief is correct.

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STATUS OF AMENDMENT

5. The appellants' statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

6. The summary of invention contained in the brief is correct.

ISSUES

7. The appellants' statement of the issues contained in the brief is correct.

GROUPING OF THE CLAIMS

8. The appellants' statement of the grouping of the claims in the brief is correct.

CLAIMS APPEALED

9. The copy of the appealed claims contained in the appendix, pages 15-19 is correct.

PRIOR ART OF RECORD

10. Masters et al., U.S. Patent Number 5,920,697, issued on July 6, 1999, but filed on July 11, 1996 (hereinafter Masters).

Call, U.S. Patent Number 6,154,738, issued on November 28, 2000, but filed on May 21, 1999.

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NEW PRIOR ART

11. No new prior art has been applied in this examiner's answer.

GROUND OF REJECTION

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103, the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of potential 35 U.S.C. § 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

13. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as obvious over Masters, in view of Call.

Masters discloses a method and system for automatic updating and use of routing information in a messaging system. Masters discloses the invention substantially as claimed. Taking claim 1, as an exemplary claim, Masters discloses a method of

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identifying, in a directory server, a new mail associated with an incoming message that is received by a messaging server, comprising: receiving a new routing information associated with the incoming message at the messaging server (see column 2, lines 50 to column 3, line 39, receiving at a first site message routing information from a second site; column 8, lines 33-50; when new routing information becomes available in a site, RID process regenerates the routing table based on the newly received replicated information); creating a corresponding entry in a directory in the directory server for every component included in the new routing information that does not already exist in the directory (see column 5, lines 10-37, column 7, line 8 to column 8, line 50, RID process regenerates the routing table based on the newly received information. A site is interested only in previously unknown routes to remote address spaces to update the routing table; and RID process disregards known routing information); automatically updating a corresponding real routing record in a server associated with the directory server based upon the entry and identifying the new mail route by the directory server based upon the automatically updated real routing record (see column 5, lines 10-37, column 7, line 8 to column 8, line 50, automatically regenerates the routing table to include the newly received routing information).

14. Masters does not explicitly show the process of using domain name associated with the incoming message at the messaging server; however, Masters discloses the process of a new mail associated with an incoming message that is received by a messaging server and automatically updating a corresponding real routing record in a server associated with the directory server (see column 5, lines 10-37, column 7, line 8

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to column 8, line 50, automatically regenerates the routing table to include the newly received routing information). Call discloses a messaging system similar to that of Masters, wherein Call discloses that the use of a domain name associated with the incoming message at the messaging server is well known in the art (see column 5, line 10 to column 6, line 40, column 22, line 55 to column 24, line 44). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Masters in view of Call by including the use of domain name associated with an incoming message, since Call teaches that the use of a domain name associated with the incoming message at the messaging server is well known in the art. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Masters in view of Call so that directory services can be resolved in a proper manner .

15. As per claim 2, Masters discloses the method as recited in claim 1, further comprising: automatically generating a routing table based upon the created entry (see column 8, lines 36-50 RID process automatically generates the routing table to include the newly received routing information).

16. As per claim 3, Masters discloses the method as recited in claim 2, wherein the identifying is also based upon the automatically generated routing table (see column 7, line 8 to column 8, line 59).

17. As per claim 4, Masters discloses the method as recited in claim 3, wherein the messaging server includes a transfer unit that uses the automatically generated routing

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table to open a channel by which the incoming message is delivered (see column 7, line 8 to column 8, line 59).

18. As per claims 5 and 6, Masters discloses the method as recited in claim 4, wherein the transfer unit includes a local directory used to store most recently used directory entries in a table thereby reducing traffic between the messaging server and the directory server (see figure 3, column 7, line 62 to column 8, line 59). Master teaches the process of periodically updating the local directory whenever the directory server has been updated (see figure 3, column 7, line 8 to column 8, line 59). Masters does not explicitly show that the routing table is stored in a cache. However, it is old and well known in the art to store information in a local cache or fast access storage system. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Masters by storing the routing table in a cache because it is old and well known in the art to store information in a local cache.

19. As per claim 7, Masters discloses the method as recited in claim 6, wherein the directory is a hierarchically organized directory (see figures 2-6B).

20. As per claim 8, Masters discloses the method as recite in claim 7, wherein Masters does not explicitly show that the hierarchically organized directory is an LDAP based directory information tree (DIT). However, Call discloses a messaging system similar to that of Masters, wherein Call discloses that the use of LDAP based directory information tree (DIT) is well known in the art (see column 5, line 10 to column 6, line

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40, column 20, line 27 to column 21, line 5). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify directory service structure disclosed by Masters in view of Call and include the use of LDAP based directory information tree (DIT), since Call teaches that the use of LDAP based directory information tree (DIT) is well known in the art.

21. As per claim 9, Masters discloses the method as recited in claim 1, wherein the creating is based upon a mail exchange record (MX) associated with the incoming email message (see column 2, line 50 to column 3, line 14, column 6, line 53 to column 8, line 50).

22. As per claims 10-19, they do not teach or further define over the limitations recited in claims 1-9 above. Claims 10-13 are directed to an electronic messaging system having a main host computer, a messaging server and a directory server for performing the corresponding steps recited in rejected method claims 1-9, above. Claims 14-19 are directed to a computer-readable medium containing programming instructions for and computer program code devices configured to cause a computer to perform the corresponding steps recited in rejected method claims 1-9, above. Therefore, claims 10-19 are also rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claims 1-9, supra.

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RESPONSE TO ARGUMENT

23. The examiner summarizes the various points raised by the appellants and addresses replies individually.

The appellants argued argue in substance that Masters is limited to updating a routing table based upon already known information. The applicants further argue that "claim 1 is directed at creating an entry in a directory for every component (not already in the directory) included in a new domain name associated with an incoming email message. The combination of Masters and Call fails to teach the claimed invention.

In response to applicants arguments, Masters clearly teaches that the routing table is updated using the newly received routing information at a site. Masters clearly teaches that "Messages are sent by receiving at a first site message routing information from a second site" (see column 2, lines 50 to column 3, line 39). Masters further discloses when new routing information becomes available in a site, RID process regenerates the routing table based on the newly received information (column 8, lines 33-50). Masters discloses that the RID process regenerates the routing table based on the newly received information. Masters further discloses that a site is interested only in previously unknown routes to remote address spaces to update the routing table, and the RID process disregards known routing information. Masters discloses that RID process automatically regenerates the routing table to include the newly received routing information (see column 5, lines 10-37, column 7, line 8 to column 8, line 50). Therefore, Masters does disclose the process of updating the routing table based upon newly received routing information.

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Masters does not explicitly show the process of using domain name associated with the incoming message at the messaging server; however, Masters discloses the process of a new mail associated with an incoming message that is received by a messaging server and automatically updating a corresponding real routing record in a server associated with the directory server (see column 5, lines 10-37, column 7, line 8 to column 8, line 50, automatically regenerates the routing table to include the newly received routing information). Call discloses a messaging system similar to that of Masters, wherein Call discloses that the use of a domain name associated with the incoming message at the messaging server is well known in the art (see column 5, line 10 to column 6, line 40, column 22, line 55 to column 24, line 44). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Masters in view of Call by including the use of domain name associated with an incoming message, since Call teaches that the use of a domain name associated with the incoming message at the messaging server is well known in the art. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to modify Masters in view of Call so that directory services can be resolved in a proper manner.

The appellants further argued that "wherein automatic generating a routing table based upon the created entry". In reply, Masters discloses at column 8, lines 36-50 that routing information daemon RID process automatically generates the routing table to include the newly received routing information.

The appellants further argued that "wherein the identifying is also based upon automatically generated routing table". In reply Masters discloses at column 8, lines 36-50 that routing information daemon RID process automatically generates the routing


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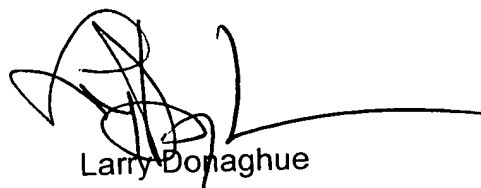
table to include the newly received routing information. Master further states "when regenerating its routing table based on newly received replicated information, a site is interested only in previously unknown routes to remote addresses" and "All redundant or known routes that have not changed and which are included in the replicated information consequently are ignored by the RID process. The appellants further argued that "wherein the local directory is periodically updated whenever the directory server has been updated. Master teaches the process of periodically updating the local directory whenever the directory server has been updated (see figure 3, column 7, line 8 to column 8, line 59, directory service 901, current route 44, destination 46, total routing cost 42).

24. For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully Submitted,


ZARNI MAUNG
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Conferee


Larry Donaghue
LARRY D. DONAGHUE
PRIMARY EXAMINER